

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated August 6, 2003. Claims 1-17 were pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant has added new dependent claims 18-20. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are presented for examination, with claims 1, 6 and 12 being in independent form.

The Office Action states that corrected drawings are required. In response, Applicant submits herewith a set of corrected drawings as **Exhibit A** attached hereto.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,828,836 to Westwick et al. Claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly by U.S. Patent No. 6,005,677 to Suzuki. Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,517,324 to Fite, Jr. et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6 and 12 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to facsimile transmission operation through a LAN (local area network) to which a client data terminal and a called data terminal are connected, wherein an information transfer request is transmitted from the client data terminal to the called data terminal which is also connected to a PSTN (public switched telephone network), such that immediacy of transmission to the destination is enhanced and the likelihood of a communication error is decreased.

Information is exchanged during facsimile communications between sending and receiving facsimile apparatuses in order for one of the apparatuses to know the statuses and capabilities of the apparatus on the other end.

For example, a facsimile apparatus X which uses B4-sized paper may send facsimile image information to a facsimile apparatus Y which uses A4-sized paper. The facsimile apparatus Y which receives the facsimile image information from the facsimile apparatus X may not be able to reproduce the received information in B4 form. Therefore, according to the present application, the facsimile apparatus X, with information of the communication capabilities of the facsimile apparatus Y, converts the facsimile image data from B4 form into A4 form according to the capability of the facsimile apparatus Y, before sending the facsimile image information to the facsimile apparatus Y.

According to the present application, information sets of communication capabilities of plural data terminals (including the called data terminal) on the LAN are collected on the client data terminal, and facsimile image information is generated based on the information of communication capabilities of the called data terminal. Thus, image conversion need not be performed at the called data terminal.

Paper size is merely one example of information of communication capabilities, which may include other examples, such as image resolution, encoding/decoding (i.e. compression) functions, etc. Thus, as discussed in the application, the facsimile image information generated according to the information of communication capabilities of the called data terminal is acceptable to the called data terminal (see application at page 35, lines 9-18), and transmission of the facsimile

image information to the called data terminal is efficient (see application at page 28, lines 17-20).

For example, independent claim 1 is directed to a method of transmitting an information transfer request from a client data terminal, which is coupled to a local area network, to a called data terminal which is coupled to the local area network and a public switched telephone network. The method comprises (i) collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data terminals on the local area network at an arbitrary time on the client data terminal, the different data terminals being coupled to the local area network and the public switched telephone network and including the called data terminal, (ii) storing the information sets of communication capabilities into a memory, and (iii) generating on the client data terminal facsimile image information by reference to one of the stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to the called data terminal. An information transfer request is created on the client data terminal for requesting transmission of the facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to the public switched telephone network. The information transfer request is sent from the client data terminal to a communications controller. The information transfer request is transmitted from the communications controller to the called data terminal through the local area network after the information transfer request is sent from the client data terminal to the communications controller.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that the cited reference disclose each and every element of the claimed invention exactly. Applicant maintains that Westwick and Suzuki cannot

anticipate the claimed invention since they fail to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention exactly.

Westwick, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a networked information communication system wherein information units (for example, facsimile documents, digitized voice information, still-motion video or full-motion video frame sequence) are stored locally in plural local terminals instead of being centrally stored in a host processor. Each of the local terminals is connected to a local area network and provides access to any user. A host processor manages all information units and their movement within the system, maintains the status and location of the information units, user profiles and billing information relating to system use by each user, and performs information routing. The information units are stored in the local terminal where they were received until the host processor determines that it is time for the information unit to be sent to the specified destination.

Westwick does not disclose exchange of facsimile capability information between the host processor and the local terminals. The host processor in the system of Westwick does not generate an image in accordance with the capabilities of the called terminal.

The Office Action states that "information sets of communication capabilities" is interpreted as being information regarding user profiles, information unit routing and billing information.

Applicant respectfully submits that this interpretation is inconsistent with the claim language. Claim 1 states, for example, "... generating ... facsimile image information by reference to one of said stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to said called data terminal ..."

The information regarding user profiles, information unit routing and billing information of Westwick is unrelated to information of communication capabilities of the called terminal. Westwick simply does not disclose or suggest (nor can Applicant fathom any possible teaching of) generating facsimile image information by reference to user profiles, information unit routing and billing information. As pointed out in the Office Action (at page 3), the user profiles of Westwick contain information such as a distribution list, speed dial codes, passwords, automatic forwarding, telephone numbers, etc. Applicant finds no teaching in Westwick, however, to use the user profiles, information unit routing and billing information to generate facsimile image information which is acceptable to the called data terminal.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Westwick simply does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Suzuki, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a facsimile device having a LAN communication function for exchanging data with a terminal of a correspondence partner through the LAN connected to an internet. The facsimile device also has a function for exchanging image information with the terminal of the correspondence partner through an exchange network (such as a general switched telephone network). A telephone conversion table which includes for each destination address a telephone number and an IP address is stored in parameter memory. According to Suzuki, the facsimile device transmits a facsimile to the called terminal via the LAN instead of the general switched telephone network when a network address of the called terminal is registered at the facsimile machine.

However, Suzuki does not disclose exchange of facsimile

capability information between the facsimile device and the called terminal. The facsimile device of Suzuki does not generate a facimile image in accordance with the capabilities of the called terminal.

As acknowledged in the Office Action (at page 5), Suzuki does not disclose "information of communication capabilities" as discussed in the present application.

However, the Office Action alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art can consider the storage of the telephone conversion table in the parameter memory, as discussed by Suzuki at column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 13, as "communication capabilities". Applicant respectfully disagrees that Suzuki suggests (much less anticipates) the claimed invention.

As pointed out above, claim 1 calls for "... generating ... facsimile image information by reference to one of said stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to said called data terminal ..."

The information in the telephone conversion table of Suzuki simply is unrelated to information of communication capabilities of the called terminal. Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Suzuki that information from the telephone conversion table can be used to generate facsimile image information. Moreover, Applicant simply does not find teaching or suggestion in Suzuki to use information of communication capabilities to generate facsimile image information which is acceptable to the called data terminal.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Suzuki, like Westwick, simply does not render the claimed invention unpatentable.

Fite, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a compatibility software module which purportedly can make a fax machine compatible

with a number of fax protocols.

Fite does not cure the deficiencies of Westwick and Suzuki as discussed above.

Applicant simply does not find disclosure or suggestion by the cited art of a method of transmitting an information transfer request from a client data terminal, which is coupled to a local area network, to a called data terminal which is coupled to the local area network and a public switched telephone network. The method comprises (i) collecting information sets of communication capabilities of a plurality of different data terminals on the local area network at an arbitrary time on the client data terminal, the different data terminals being coupled to the local area network and the public switched telephone network and including the called data terminal, (ii) storing the information sets of communication capabilities into a memory, (iii) generating on the client data terminal facsimile image information by reference to one of the stored information sets of communication capabilities pertaining to the called data terminal, (iv) creating an information transfer request on the client data terminal for requesting transmission of the facsimile image information to an arbitrary facsimile machine connected to the public switched telephone network, sending the information transfer request from the client data terminal to a communications controller, and transmitting the information transfer request from the communications controller to the called data terminal through the local area network after the information transfer request is sent from the client data terminal to the communications controller, as provided by the method recited in independent claim 1.

Since the cited art does not disclose or suggest each and every

feature of the claimed invention, it does not render the claimed invention unpatentable.

Independent claims 6 and 12 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant maintains that the pending claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.


The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this Response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an additional extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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PAUL TENG, Reg. No. 40,837  
Attorney for Applicant  
Cooper & Dunham LLP  
Tel. (212) 278-0400